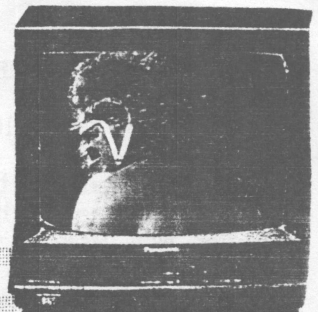


MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

VOL. 2, NO. 47

JUNE 4-9, 1990



THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

"TAG TEAM" PICKED UP FOR 12 EPISODES

LOS ANGELES---TAG TEAM, the Jesse Ventura/Roddy Piper action-adventure series for ABC has been picked up for twelve episodes as a midseason replacement.

The announcement is in addition to the two-hour pilot. Network sources have told MATWATCH the series could potentially replace either THE PATHER DOWLING MYSTERIES on Thursdays or YOUNG RIDERS on Saturdays if either series falters.

Entertainment critic Chris Crosby interviews TAG TEAM creator Bruce Sallan about the series in this week's TV TEMPO (page 3).

PRIME TICKET CLOSE TO WRESTLING SERIES

LOS ANGELES---The pay-sports service PRIME TICKET is close to a deal for a weekly wrestling talk series.

Sources close to the negotiations say a budget would be provided for air transportation for weekly live guests during a call-in segment.

A host and co-host are expected to be named next week, along with a time period. The program would air on PRIME TICKET's West Coast network.

FNN/SCORE PASSES ON CAULIFLOWER SPECIAL

LOS ANGELES---Financial News Network's cable SCORE sports service has opted not to reprise a special centered around the annual Cauliflower Alley Club weekend.

Former SCORE personality Danny Wolf produced an hour-long special based on the L.A.-based Hall of Fame organization for wrestling veterans in 1989.

Footage was shot at this year's event in February for future airing but SCORE officials decided the rough cut looked too similar to last year's special and decided to pass on a sequel.

IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE

How many of you have reached the point that pro wrestling feels like you're stuck in stagnant water? Or like a sitcom which has run out of fresh ideas?



Steve

Beverly

I, for one, have. And I'm frustrated because I don't know what to do about it. I watched Memorial Day weekend as WWF SUPERSTARS and WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP shows both aired big angles. And while the

Hulk Hogan-Earthquake Tenta bit was better polished, better executed and better designed than the Ric Flair-Junkyard Dog "surprise," I felt I'd seen all of this before. And I have.

The Hogan-Tenta angle will be remembered not so much for Hogan's "injury," except by the small fry. If it had a significance, it was in Vince McMahon coming out of the anchor chair and into active involvement in the angle, taking a page right out of Gordon Solie's dramatic 1968 leap into the ring to congratulate Red Bastien for upsetting Johnny Valentine and Boris Malenko, or his accidental decking by Mr. Wrestling II during a 1977 workout. It was a masterful performance by McMahon, one we'll remember at the end of the year.

Yet, the focal point of the angle itself---the Hogan squash by Tenta was nothing new. Anyone who remembers King Kong Bundy's WWF heyday in 1985-86 hasn't forgotten Bundy's splashing Hogan into an "injury" on SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT. This one was a simple recycling of an old sequence.

As for Flair-JYD, I honestly believe Ole Anderson is setting out to do as he told his troops on his first night as NWA booker: "Gentlemen, the calendar may say this is 1990 but this is 1974 all over again."

The "surprise" performer is an Anderson bit as trademarked as the faces on Mount Rushmore. Remember Dusty Rhodes "surprising" Ole and Stan Hansen with George (The Animal) Steele on the old GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING? And the racial insults at Rocky King? Remember Ole and Thunderbolt Patterson through the years? Remember Flair and Leroy Brown in 1981 on GCW (and Flair on JYD later in Mid-South)? Not to mention that Saturday's show appearing to be a class reunion of the 1973-84 gang from GEORGIA/WCW? All we had missing were Tim Woods, Bill Watts, Ted DiBiase, Terry Gordy, Steve O and the Sawyers. Or as one top NWA performer said in the past week: "There's no truth to the rumor that Bobby Shane is coming back to the NWA." Honestly, I'm not so sure.

(Continued on Page 2)

I've remarked to a number of people quite seriously the only proper way to have opened WCW Memorial Day weekend is to have had Tommy Rich open up emerging from under covers saying, "Hey, somebody say something about having a dream. Somebody say something about 1980. Hey, I've had a dream that's lasted ten years and it's finally over."

Watching WCW the last two weeks, there is no doubt. I HAVE seen it all before. I know the arguments: back when Stan Hansen, Paul Orndorff, Junkyard Dog and even Rich were headlining the old Georgia show on TBS, the SuperStation had fewer than 20 million homes. A lot of today's young fans don't remember these guys. Therein lies part of what's wrong with NWA booker Ole Anderson's current philosophy.

Even the best of nostalgia buffs as myself are realistic enough to realize that even with the talent of Hansen and the past charisma of Orndorff, virtually all of the performers Anderson is reviving are pushing 40 or over. In 1990, young fans have long proven they prefer younger, newer, fresher stars---stars increasingly hard to find. Except for Hansen, I'm not sure any of Anderson's reclamation projects can kindle flames of today's discerning new fans.

For someone such as me and a number of hardcores I've conversed with in the past ten days, every trick Ole is pulling on the WCW shows we could almost predict step by step. For what he's attempting, the shows are better focused than the meandering efforts of the last two months. But what they're focusing on is questionable or even insulting. As a native Southerner, I'd like to think we've grown beyond the type of racial hate hurled during the JYD-Flair-Rocky King angle. Frankly, I was offended.

I honestly believe the kind of inertia is settling into pro wrestling as happens to the creative strength of a COSBY SHOW, a GROWING PAINS, or a HEAD OF THE CLASS---shows which hang in perhaps one or two seasons beyond their peak appeal to the point of recycling earlier plots. It's the same as happened to LEAVE IT TO BEAVER in the sixth season when the producers began doing stories with Beaver they had focused on Wally during the first year. Eventually, the public says enough.

Maybe the only way to turn this staleness around is to try a novel idea I've suggested in recent weeks: perhaps wrestling companies should throw away the contrived, rehashed plots and do something innovative---let the guys go at it for real. At least we couldn't criticize the creativity. And a lot of money could be saved on bookers.

Pinfall Profile

**CWA: STILL
TRYING HARD**

One of the joys of being in the mid-South is to see the last vestiges of a dying art. Even though it's a ragged shell of its former self, CWA---pardon me, USWA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, Memphis version, is still worth one's while for a Saturday morning of entertainment.

Veteran weathercaster/sidekick Dave Brown has proven quite adept in transition to the lead host's role in the year since Lance Russell departed for NWA pastures.

In fact, Brown's smooth focus, honed over years as perhaps the best-known personality of the WMC-TV news team, is the glue---along with the remaining strength of Jerry Lawler's personality which has held this show together.

The recent outbursts in the last two weeks of May on the live 90-minute affair between Jerry Lawler and The Snowman left memories of classic Memphis. It wasn't one of the many bloodbaths we remember from the studio but the two-week buildup led to a well-focused, carefully-crescendoe show-ending brawl between the two which led to security separating the two. Through it all, Brown was a refreshing stalwart of composure amidst a sea of contemporary hard-sell commentators.

Though the series draws only about half the ratings of its peak years, it still remains a commercial sellout. As long as it rakes profits for the NBC affiliate, the show will remain. Brown is probably the only news team member of a big market station even allowed to cross over into the avant garde world of wrestling. But somehow, Memphis TV is different from the rest of the USA. In this river city, it works.

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

RATES UNTIL JULY 15: \$6 for 7 issues, \$19 for 26 issues.
OVERSEAS UNTIL JULY 15: \$10 for 7 issues, \$36 for 26.

RATES AFTER JULY 15: \$5 for 5 issues, \$10 for 11 issues.
OVERSEAS AFTER JULY 15: \$9 for 5 issues, \$18 for 11.

BONUS OFFER: Until July 15, you receive 2 free issues for every 7-issue set you give.

CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER to: STEVE BEVERLY, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

MATWATCH

Page 3

Vol. 2, No. 47 / June 4-10

"TAG TEAM" PRODUCER: ABC LOVES IT

By CHRIS CROSBY
MATWATCH West Coast Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD---"ABC loves the show."

If you listen long enough to Bruce Sallan, creator/executive producer of the new action-adventure series TAG TEAM, you'd wonder how the program missed making ABC's recently-announced fall lineup.

The network has ordered a dozen episodes of the Jesse Ventura-Roddy Piper starring venture as a backup series beyond the two-hour pilot. Shooting is expected to begin in August with premiere now anticipated by early November.

"We expect no trouble with Roddy's or Jesse's schedules," says Sallan. "Jesse will continue to announce on the WWF SUPERSTARS show." But Sallan left open the likelihood that Piper will again leave wrestling.

In the pilot, Piper plays Tricky Rick and Ventura is Billy the Body. After an opening match with the Orient Express, the two have a run-in with the promoter's wife, which leads to them being tossed out of wrestling. They try and fail to find other jobs. After foiling a holdup attempt at a supermarket, the cops convince the ex-wrestlers they should join the force.

Rick and Billy graduate from the police academy and are assigned their first case, protecting a female murder witness. A failed attempt on the woman's life sends her underground. Rick and Billy spend the remainder of the pilot trying to track down the victim, then the killer.

"We're recasting some actors from the pilot," said Sallan. "Some new roles are being written as supporting players." But Sallan says not to expect much gunplay. "These are human and message stories," said Sallan. "If someone dies, it's for a reason."

Some of the stories will draw from the wrestlers' actual backgrounds. Rick will be a street kid and Billy a Vietnam seal. The second episode will be an anti-steroid story and a future script will feature Piper as a "Big Brother."

"The show does not demean wrestling," says Sallan. "If it did, Roddy and Jesse would not be involved. We hope the series will show wrestlers as people. Some episodes will feature wrestling and WWF stars if they are available." But Sallan indicated NWA wrestlers may also be approached for appearances.

As for WWF owner Vince McMahon's participation, Sallan says it will be none, other than if other WWF wrestlers are used. "He (Vince) is not involved in the production," said Sallan. "In fact, Jess and Roddy will stay away from the Titan characters they now play."

With the show targeted as an 8 o'clock series, likely on either Thursday or Saturday nights, TAG TEAM will shoot for heavy youth appeal. "We want the wrestling fan to watch," said Sallan, "and we look forward to their input."

PRO WRESTLING TORCH: Editor WADE KELLER is offering a special deal for MATWATCH subscribers. As a trial, though the end of June, Wade offers four issues of TORCH for only \$1. That's right: 25 cents an issue. PWT has gone weekly and features popular wrestling columnists and interviews. Send \$1 for your 4-issue trial to: PRO WRESTLING TORCH, P.O. Box 201844, MINNEAPOLIS MN 55420. You'll like it!!!

TV TEMPO

May 27-June 3

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(USWA) - [REPLAY]: Jerry Lawler d. Jeff Jarrett on reversal when chain planted by Ronald P. Gossett IV found on Jarrett; Jarrett/Billy Travis d. Dirty White Boys by DQ when Gossett splashes Jarrett 3 times; USWA TITLE: Lawler d. Jeff Gaylord w. trunks; Kerry Von Erich vs. Matt Borne ends in no contest when match goes into parking lot & Kerry-Borne slam each other into a pickup truck. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Death Row (Gasser & Shocker) d. Tony Ward/Steve Young; FEATURE: Tim Dix indicates total displeasure at state of GA. ALL-STAR; Bugman Michaels d. Keith Steinborn; Randy Rose d. Bobby Bennett; Thunder & Lightning d. Allen Horne/John McDaniel; ANGLE: Steve Lawler refuses to be clotheslined the way he clotheslined Dino Minelli last week, setting up a team split; ANGLE II: During interview w. Tony Gage/Joel Deaton, Lawler & Minelli brawl into the building (Minelli turns face). POWERSLAM.

(LPWA) - Linda Street d. Linda Dallas by DQ when Kat LeRoux runs in; Tina Moretti/Sexy Sindee Paradise d. Bad Girl/Black Venus by reversal when Bad Girl won't release torture rack on Sindee; Magnificent Mimi d. Dawn Maree. DRAW-PLUS.

(WINDY CITY) - Hurricane Smith d. Roger Clark; Hawkeye Cody Hunter d. K.C. Knight; WCW TITLE: Frank (Tank) Nelson d. Col. DeBeers by DQ to keep belt when Smith runs in but new team Shredder From 2121 saves. RESTHOLD.

(AWA) - [HIGHLIGHTS] AWA TITLE: Larry Zbyszko draw vs. The Trooper; [MATCHES] Trooper d. Tom Stone; Brad Rheingans d. Jamie Mangnum; Destruction Crew d. D.J. Peterson/Rheingans by DQ when Bloom thrown over top; TEAM CHALLENGE: Rheingans d. Bloom; HOME RUN DERBY: John Nord d. DeBeers. BOMB-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - ANGLE: Huracan Ramirez/Blue Demon introduce new proteges in intergalactic costumes; Martha Villalobos/Pontore Surena/La Viabolia d. Rossy Moreno/La Sirenita/Lola Gonzalez 2-3 falls; TAG TOURNAMENT (Blind Draw...each team with one face/one heel) Angel Azteca/El Dandy d. Xavier Cruz/Emilio Charles 2 straight falls. POWERSLAM.

(WWF/SYND.) - [SUPERSTARS]: Brutus Beefcake d. Jim Ruby; Orient Express d. Paul Roma/Dale Wolfe; Dusty Rhodes d. Tony Leone; Dino Bravo d. George Anderson; Nikoli Volkoff d. Boris Zhukov by DQ when Boris begins pelting Volkoff w. boot (Nikoli began by singing THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER); Bushwackers d. Black Bart/Kent Carlson; Jim Duggan d. Al Burke; BRO. LUV: Rick Rude/Bobby Heenan; UPDATE: Tugboat urges fans to help pep up the "injured" Hulk Hogan & Gene Okerlund breaks down when he asks fans to write Hulkster. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

MATWATCH

Page 4

Vol. 2, No. 47 / June 4-10

(WWF/USA) - [ALL-AMERICAN]: Haku d. Omar Atlas; SPECIAL REPORT: Bolsheviks split; Hart Foundation d. Paul Diamond/Paul Neumann; Bad News Brown d. Jim Gorman; Hercules/Roma d. Buddy Rose/Ken Johnson; BRO. LUV: Earthquake attack on Hogan; Rick Martel d. Wolfe; Duggan d. Pez Whatley. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Rock & Roll Express d. Pat Rose/Green Shadow; WRESTLING WRAPUP: JYD/Flair/Rocky King angle; Arn Anderson d. Lee Scott; Mark Callous d. Paul Drake; Steiners d. Joe Cezana/Rick Fargo; Stan Hansen d. Robbie Idol. BOMB-PLUS.

[NWA PRO]: Tommy Rich d. Mark Kyle; Samoan Swat Team d. Scott/King; Doug Furnas d. Ned Brady; Hansen d. Idol; WRAPUP: same as WWW; FEATURE: Jim Ross w. Hansen; Steiners d. State Patrol; Midnight Express d. Drake/Tim Parker; ANGLE: 'Birds can't produce tape of their rock appearance at bowling alley; DECISION: WOMAN suspended for bringing lead into ring at CAPITOL COMBAT. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [WCW]: Brian Pillman d. Barry Horowitz; (REPLAYS) JYD-Flair angle; DOOM d. Jerry Price/Fargo; Callous d. ; Southern Boys d. Cezana/Galaxian Davis; Furnas d. Green Shadow (Ted Allen); Freebirds d. Jerry Price/Jim Rogers; Midnight Express d. Rose/Scott; Rich d. Brady; Steiner d. Kyle; Road Warriors d. Barry Windham/Arn Anderson by DQ when Ole & Sid Vicious run in & toss out Paul Ellering but Sting, JYD & Paul Orndorff save to loud heat. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(MEMPHIS/USWA) - USWA WORLD TAG TITLE: Dirty White Boys d. Southern Boys to win belts...(First Fall); Steve Doll absent so Rex King defends solo & scores pin on Tom Burton. (Second Fall) Anthony pins King when Gossett trips up Rex. (Third Fall) DWBs make King juice but as Rex rallies to roll up Burton, Gossett tosses Anthony international object & King pinned; Ben Jordan d. Keith Haynes & Downtown Bruno reappears; ANGLE I: Lou Winston named special ref for Lawler-Snowman rematch; ANGLE II: Lawler & Snowman have long standoff; Lawler d. Freezer Thompson; (From Mid-South Col.) Jarrett/Travis/Kerry d. Dirty White Boys/Gossett but DWBs attack faces w. chairs after & Gossett clotheslines/splashes Jeff; LIGHTS OUT MATCH: Lawler d. Snowman by DQ when Snow decks ref Jerry Calhoun. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(JERRY LAWLER SHOW) - Lawler has NIKE models and plugs a summer youth camp and Memphis dog show. He also insults Billy Travis and John Tatum's valet Tessa. NO RATING.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Sean Mooney, WWF: "The Macho King and his queen have taken royalty back into the Dark Ages." 2. Theodore R. Long, WWW: "Junkyard Dog, you need to get back on your side of the tracks where YOUR people belong." 3. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "HULKAMANIA is dead! Long live the Earthquake!" 4. Ronald P. Gossett IV, USWA, to Craig Johnson: "I don't know what kind of an illiterate test you took to get this announce job." 5. Percy Pringle, USWA: "You can hear the thunder--- but there's a bigger storm between Kerry Von Erich and Maniac Matt Borne." 6. Jim Cornette, WCW: "I couldn't warm up to Paul E. Dangerously if we were cremated together." 7. Ole Anderson, WWW, on Rock & Roll Ex: "Guys with rags all over

their tails." 8. Junkyard Dog, WWW: "It ain't 1935, Ole. This is 1990." 9. Cornette, WCW: "I wish Paul E.'d move in next door to me. I live next door to a cemetery." 10. Paul E. Dangerously, NWA PRO, to Norman: "Fat men may not fall often---but you DO fall!"

11. Ventura, WWF, on Zhukov's attack on Volkoff: "I guess he felt the rocket's red glare." 12. Vince McMahon/Ventura, WWF: (VINCE) "Joining me in cow country is the man who's been milking Hollywood for years." (JESSE) "Hey, don't have a cow, man!" 13. Stan Hansen, NWA PRO: "I've been in the Third World out there with the Peace Corps people." 14. Ventura, WWF: "I've never seen a Tugboat that moves fast." 15. Jerry Lawler/Bundy, JERRY LAWLER SHOW: (JL) "School's out. Are you glad?" (B) "No, I wish them brats were still there." 16. Lawler, JLS, on Travis: "What a wimp!" 17. Gossett, MEMPHIS: "I have a health problem. I have an enlarged heart the size of a basketball." 18. Snowman's spokeswoman, MEMPHIS: "Jerry Lawler, you keep talking how you do this and you do that. You ain't nothin' but an Al Bundy." 19. Lawler, MEMPHIS: "Snowman has to surround himself with friends with brains the size of a BB." 20. Lawler, MEMPHIS, to Snowman: "You may have muscles between your ears. I know you've got some in 'em."

21. Cornette, WCW: "A lot of these people think hors d'oeuvres are Spam on a cracker." 22. Cornette, WCW, to Mr. Wrestling II: "If you had a fishing license, they wouldn't let you fish in the ring." 23. Jim Ross, WCW, on Barry Windham: "He should have been frisked. Of course, I don't know who would have done it. I sure wouldn't have."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Hansen, NWA PRO: "All these promoters just want somebody to say, 'Yes, sir' or 'No, sir.'" 2. Ole Anderson, WWW: "I couldn't care what Jim Herd thinks." 3. Hansen, NWA PRO, on the "lariat": "Everybody tries to copy it but I'm the one who started it." 4. Lawler, JLS: "I'd rather have the Southern title than this Tessa. Her face would stop an 8-day clock." 5. Snowman, MEMPHIS: "If Lou (Winston) don't call it right, I'm gonna smack him into next week." 6. Cornette, WCW: "Did you ever wish one time he'd (Paul E.) have a stroke?"

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Tony Schiavone, WWF: "Don't you think it's strange that a cage can raise up all by itself." 2. Craig Johnson, USWA, on Kerry-Borne brawl: "Can anyone control this?" 3. Lawler, MEMPHIS: "Hey, Snowman, if you felt froggy, why didn't you jump?"

BEST PICTURES - 1. USWA/Dallas, Gossett splashing Jarrett. 2. NWA PRO, Robert Gibson using sign language. 3. WCW, Scott Steiner's Frankenstein. 4. WWF, Volkoff singing STAR SPANGLED BANNER. 5. JLS, Bundy holding up Gossett's underwear.

INSIDE INFORMATION - Michael Hayes, NWA PRO: "Tommy Rich is exactly five pounds over the weight he was when he won the world heavyweight championship."

BEST ANGLES - 1. USWA, Kerry-Borne parking lot brawl, even if it was a rerun of Lawler-Eddie Gilbert from two years ago. 2. WWF, Volkoff-Zhukov match.

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. PORKY (Percy Pringle on Gossett). 2. THE VON ERICH FAMILY GIMMICK (Matt Borne on Chris Von Erich).

HYPE AWARD - Jim Ross, WCW: "Fans, if you missed our DYNAMIC broadcast last week...."

MATWATCH

Page 5

Vol. 2, No. 47 / June 4-10

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Hayes, NWA PRO: "....bitten off more than he can chew." 2. Johnson, USWA: "....time will tell."

BOO AWARDS - 1. WWF, Randy Savage shoving Sherri out of the interview and "humbling" her. 2. USWA, for having no camera light on parking lot brawl. 3. NWA, for its flimsy suspension of WOMAN for her "role" at CAPITOL COMBAT. Who are they kidding? SHE gets suspended and not everyone ELSE involved in that fiasco?

TUBE TALK

On PRO WRESTLING '90 next Saturday, Mr. Wrestling II announces the following week will be his final TV match....Also on PW '90, expect a walkup by the Royal Family and a hot match between Dino Minelli and The Flash....True, Volkoff-Zhukov won't draw big money but the splitup angles have been nicely choreographed and a good midshow focus of attention on SUPERSTARS....The Snowman-Lawler bits have been as heated as anything done in the old CWA territory in months....Wonder who okayed Stan Hansen making himself juice in the lariat interview with Jim Ross?

I'm going to get on Jerry Jarrett's case the same as I used to about David Woods in CWF. When an angle goes into the parking lot or even into the dark aisle, at least have a battery-powered light on top of your cameras to do the production justice....NWA doing much better well-focused localized interviews in this area for Memphis, even if questions remain if people want to see these confrontations.... JERRY LAWLER SHOW on WWC pre-empted this Sunday morning for FRENCH OPEN coverage.

Just as I felt Vince was outstanding the week before during the Hogan-Earthquake angle, I thought Gene Okerlund overacted to the point of nausea during his UPDATE segment in breaking up over Hogan. McMahon gave a controlled, well-disciplined concern while you had the feeling Gene was stifling a belly laugh just having to do that....Paul E. Dangerously already hitting the target with his local interviews and may be the boost Mean Mark needs....The PEOPLE MAGAZINE on TV special with Lawler only drew a 6.8 rating and 12 share on CBS....The Anderson/Windham vs. Road Warriors match did have an explosive finish. The run in had those fans going nuts and was the one shining spot in the WCW show Saturday....TBS back to a full schedule of shows this weekend. POWER HOUR and MAIN EVENT pre-empted last weekend.

Next week's MATWATCH may be a shade late. We hope to be physically moving everything to Jackson next Tuesday. So please be patient. This should be the final week of commuting confusion....A very, very special thanks this week to two of the great guys in wrestling fandom, Steve Sims and Scott Hudson, for assisting us with results information for this issue. I literally could not have done it without them.

MATWATCH HOTLINE (901) 664-9246

The new MATWATCH HOTLINE number is (901) 664-9246. Sorry, we couldn't get a wrestling acronym for this one. Now, we will not be at this number this weekend but will be able to answer calls here after June 13.

MATWATCHING

PLEASE SIT DOWN: You're gonna swear I'm lying. You really are. I've even joked about this. It's not joke. Ole Anderson has hired THUNDERBOLT PATTERSON for the NWA Seniors Tour and he did TV Monday night at Anderson SC. It really IS 1974 again.

HOGAN SIGNS: Hulk Hogan has signed a multi-picture deal with New Line Cinema, the same honchos as did NO HOLDS BARRED. This contract is not through Titan Sports. Hogan's agent Peter Young says the deal is for "a couple of movies."

MORE HOGAN: The Hogan films have not been planned but Young insists Hogan will not play a wrestler. Young says he hopes the films will "expand Hogan's range." As our West Coast critic Chris Crosby says---to quote Dorothy Parker---"he runs the gamut from A to B."

BIG LOSSES: Estimates are the NWA lost \$160,000 from its slim crowds two weekends ago. The 800 who showed up in Richmond set what's believed to be an all-time low there.

EADIE'S EATS: Bill Eadie has had another bad reaction to some seafood he ate and has had to spend a couple of days in the hospital. Doctors are suggesting he limit his action for the next 3 to 4 weeks.

DEMOLITION III: During the absence, the WWF has brought on Brian Adams as DEMOLITION III. I'm told at his premiere at the Omni, he looked monstrous. He'll team with Barry Darsow until Eadie can return but we're told he'll be a permanent addition.

OMNI ODDITIES: WWF drew 2,400, slightly under the last NWA show, last Saturday night. Toplining was Dusty/Sapphire pinning Savage/Sherri with almost the same finish as WM6. Bro. LUV and Liz Poffo were in the corners.

ANOTHER NOTE: I have to tell you: some people spoke to some WWF'ers at the Omni and said the current state of the NWA has Titan in near-giggles. But when the T-bolt hiring was relayed, the entire dressing room broke up.

MEMORIAL DAY: Joe Pedicino's BEACH BRAWL drew about 200 to Lake Altoona in north Georgia with a battle royal on top. The show fought terrible thunderstorms most of the day.

OUT OF HOUSE: Pedicino is likely to turn his house shows for GEORGIA ALL-STAR over to some of his wrestlers after mid-June. He hasn't lost much money but is just finding the administration of that and his PW'90 TV show too demanding.

MEXICO MADNESS: Ken Timbs took on Nick Busich in the MEMORIAL DAY singles topline for GA. ALL-STAR. Timbs has put on a good bit of weight but is still a good worker. He's returning to the Mexican NWA this month.

CONAN CAN: Word continues that Lucha Libre star CONAN wants to come to the American NWA so bad he can taste it. And from tapes I've seen, he'd be tremendous. But he's been advised it's the worst possible time to come in for Turner.

MEMPHIS NOTES: NWA in Mid-South June 21: JYD-Flair tops, along with Rich-Windham, R&R Ex-Freebirds, Gigante-Cuban A.

MATWATCH

Page 6

Vol. 2, No. 47 / June 4-10

OUR BEST WISHES: We're saying some special prayers for Nick Busich and his wife. Mrs. B. went into early labor contractions over the weekend and at deadline, we were in earnest hope no complications set in.

MORE MEMPHIS: This past Monday for USWA at Mid-South were Lawler-Snowman for the USWA belt, Dundee-Tatum for the Southern belt with Tessa on the line, Jeff Jarrett vs. Ronnie Gossett, Billy Travis vs. Tom Burton, Steve Doll vs. Jonnie Stewart, Tony Anthony vs. Ben Jordan and Rex King vs. The Inhuman.

UP AND COMERS: Tremendous dark match at the last GEORGIA ALL-STAR tapings between Shogun Warrior and Daredevil Young. One observer called it one of the 10 best of the year, if more had seen it. Young was a clone of Brian Pillman in 1988 and Warrior did an incredible cross body block.

ON TO JAPAN: Billy White Jr. may soon be making a Japanese tour with the help of Terry Gordy. White is appearing in Georgia as Bad Billy Black.

USWA DATES: Upcoming mid-South shows: Ripley TN this Friday with Southern Rockers and women on top, June 15 in Ridgely TN with Lawler, Dirty White Boys and Southern Rockers and June 23 in Brian Tramel's Jonesboro AR.

ON CASSETTE: A quick plug for Jeff Osborne's CASSETTE WRESTLING NEWS, P.O. Box 765, BOONVILLE IN 47601. Osborne co-hosts a twice-monthly audio cassette review of wrestling news and trivia contests. It's \$2.50 for a sample, \$16.00 for six tapes and \$30.00 for a dozen.

VARIETY DETAILS TURNER WRESTLING WOES

NEW YORK---Weekly VARIETY quoted denials of an impending sale of the National Wrestling Alliance to Comsat, Inc., in its May 23 issue but writer Michael Fleming says Ted Turner is "growing out of the headlock circuit."

The major item in Fleming's VARIETY BUZZ column revealed a Turner effort to offer the NWA to NBC in place of the WWF's SATURDAY NIGHT MAIN EVENT at a lower cost. Wrote Fleming: "A Turner spokesman wouldn't comment but NBC said it is

trying to pin McMahon with a new network deal for next season and is not considering a replacement."

Fleming wrote that Comsat denied plans to purchase the NWA and quoted a Turner spokesman as saying "a former Turner exec floated the rumor on a radio talk show." Fleming went on to write, "Ring sources say Turner wouldn't know a half nelson from a Major Nelson, is losing money with the NWA, and plans to cut the grapplers' salaries, leading some stars to threaten to jump ship."

RATINGS RAP

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REBOUNDS;

PRIME TIME NOT AVAILABLE

As of deadline, Memorial Day weekend ratings were not complete and syndication figures were unavailable. But WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING rebounded from its 1.9 of the week before as the NWA seniors circuit rolled to a 2.8 rating and strong 7.5 percent share of audience May 26.

Overall viewing levels were off for all shows on the holiday weekend. PRIME TIME WRESTLING figures from USA were not available but will be included in next week's ratings.

NWA POWER HOUR on TBS held steady and NWA MAIN EVENT held a level share, though total viewers were off for the Memorial eve. WWF ALL-AMERICAN set a season low, tackling the INDIANAPOLIS 500 head-on.

Next week, monthly figures will be available from May for WWF and NWA cable shows.

CABLE

<u>Week Ending May 27</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Share</u>	<u>Total Homes</u>
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 5/26)	2.8	7.5	1.53 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 5/27)	2.4	6.5	1.31 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 5/27)	1.9	6.0	1.00 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 5/25)	1.8	3.8	981,000
NWA POWER (Replay) (TBS 5/26)	0.9	8.3	491,000

MATWATCH

16 ROBIN HOOD LANE
JACKSON TN 38305

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON TN
PERMIT NO. 50

David Skolnick
90 W. Main St. #5
Gouverneur, NY 13642

11/19/90

FIRST CLASS MAIL